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ABSTRACT

A teaching unit is presented for fourth-grade students to learn about Indiana history during the period of 1850-1865. Designed for three to five class periods, the materials include an Oliver P. Morton biography packet, a timeline activity, crossword puzzles, sentence completion worksheet, and an essay test. (DB)

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OLIVER P. MORTON
Indiana's Civil War Governor

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A Teaching Unit for Fourth Grade
Indiana History

Shella A. Reed
Indiana and the New Nation
NEH Grant Project
University of Southern Indiana
1989-91

SO 021 130

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Lesson Plans for a Teaching Unit entitled:

OLIVER P. MORTON

Indiana's Civil War Governor

Grade Level: 4 - 12

Time: 3-5 Class periods
This unit should be presented after students have studied the time period 1850-65 in Indiana history.

Materials:

Teacher: for a general overview of the political conditions in Indiana 1850-65 see James H. Madison: The Indiana Way: A State History Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1986.

Student: Oliver P. Morton biography packet
Timeline Activity
Crossword Puzzle
Sentence Completion Worksheet
Map Activity
Essay Test

Evaluation: Essay Test

Objectives:

Students will:

1. identify Morton as Indiana's governor during the Civil War.
2. recognize Morton's efforts in contributing to Indiana's war effort.
3. become familiar with the major events in Morton's life.
4. complete a variety of worksheets to reinforce basic facts concerning Morton's life.

Activities:

1. Teachers should familiarize themselves with the background material and the information in the students' packet prior to leading a class discussion of the time period and events.

2. Students should read the Morton biography packet. This can be done individually, in small groups or as a whole class.

3. Teacher-led discussion of information in the packet to ensure students understand events and activities in Morton's life and the Civil War period in Indiana.

4. Several activities are included to reinforce main facts about Morton. These can be done using the biography packet to locate answers, or without the packet, to act as a preliminary evaluation activity. Worksheets can be teacher-led activities or individually done.

    1. Timeline Activity
    2. Crossword Puzzle
    3. Sentence Completion
    4. Map Activity

5. Evaluation of students' knowledge is measured by a simple identification and a short essay activity.

Oliver P. Morton
Indiana's Civil War Governor

Early Life 1823-1860

Oliver Hazard Perry Throck Morton was born on August 4, 1823 in a small village called Saulsbury in Wayne County on Indiana's central eastern boundary. His parents were James and Sarah (Miller) Throck Morton. Sarah died after the birth of her fourth stillborn child in 1826. Oliver was only three years old at the time of her death and too young to be without a mother's care. He was sent to live with his grandparents and their two widowed daughters, on a farm in Springfield, Ohio. Morton grew up there, living with Aunt Polly, Aunt Hannah, and Grandfather Miller for twelve years. He was called Perry in their strict, religious home where Bible reading was a daily event, and Sunday church was an all-day service. He was pampered and waited on by his aunts and was one of Aunt Hannah's students in the neighborhood school.

His father moved to Centerville, Indiana, not far from Saulsbury and decided that fifteen year old Perry should leave the farm and attend a city school. Morton stayed at the school only one year before his grandparents and aunts also moved to Centerville. Shortly thereafter his grandfather died.

At the age of fifteen, it was time for a young man to make a decision about a career in life. Oliver became a helper/clerk for a Dr. Swain. He was supposed to become a doctor by studying with Dr. Swain. When the doctor caught Oliver reading instead of clerking, he became angered and struck Oliver. Oliver returned the blow and was immediately dismissed from his medical studies. He returned to his family in disgrace and was sent learn to

be a hat maker for four years with his half brother, William. Oliver did not like this, but he spent three and a half years learning the craft. In 1843, six months before this apprenticeship was completed, Morton took his inheritance from Grandfather Miller, bought out the remaining time, and enrolled in Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Morton spent two years at Miami University taking classes that interested him. He did not graduate. He was remembered at Miami as being a "good fellow, a leader in athletic contests, an enthusiastic but rather poor musician, an excellent debater and outstanding math student."

After two years in college, his money was gone but he had found his direction in life: a career in law and marriage to Lucinda Burbank. He left school and married Lucinda in May of 1845. They had five children between 1846 and 1860, three sons and two daughters.

From 1846 to 1852, Morton was a lawyer in Centerville. There he and Lucinda began their family. In 1848, he first tried to be elected to public office. He was a candidate for prosecuting attorney of the circuit court. He did not win.

In 1852 the General Assembly of Indiana appointed Morton to be a judge in the county court. Although only holding the office eight months, this was an important time in Morton's career. During the summer court session, he exchanged courts with an Indianapolis judge and held his court in the capital city. For the first time, Oliver Morton had moved outside of Centerville to the capital city.

He had also made two personal decisions about his career as a lawyer. First, he wanted to remain a practicing lawyer, not a judge. Secondly, Morton felt his incomplete education was not good enough for a career as a lawyer.

So he left his wife and son in Centerville, and enrolled in Cincinnati College law school for one term. Morton successfully completed the term and returned home in the spring. He established a successful law practice with a partner. Records show that they were involved on one side or the other in all the important cases in the county. They worked with the railroad companies and earned quite large fees. The law office was across the street from the courthouse and became a natural gathering place for anyone interested in law, politics and current events.

At this time one of the most talked about issues in the country was the question of slavery in the South and in new states that were being added to the Union. The Democratic Party supported slavery and said the new states could make their own decision about slavery. Many Americans felt slavery was very wrong and should be forbidden in new states. Although Morton was a Democrat, he didn't think slavery was right. He did all he could to stop Indiana Democrats from supporting slavery at its meeting in May 1854. When the convention voted to support slavery, Morton walked out of the meeting in anger and defeat.

The other political party was against slavery in the South and in new states. Morton soon became involved in this group and by 1855 was giving speeches all over Indiana. This new party was calling itself the Republican party.

In May 1856, Indiana Republicans nominated Morton to run for the governor's office. He was not elected and was very disappointed and discouraged with politics. He vowed "he was through with politics and was going back to the law for good." He believed that "that was the end of his career as a politician." Of course he did not quit politics and return to

Centerville to practice law. During the next four years, Morton was a popular speaker across the state. As the 1860 elections drew closer, it seemed clear that he would be the nominee for governor again. Another Republican, Henry S. Lane, also wanted the nomination. Lane had more support and was chosen. Friends of both men made a compromise. If Lane and Morton won the election Lane would be chosen as the United States Senator and Morton would become the governor. In the fall election, Lane and Morton won the election. It was the first time that Oliver Morton had won an election.

By 1860 the slavery question had torn the country apart. The South greatly feared the election of Abraham Lincoln and promised to seceed from the Union if he was elected. Some of the Northern people wanted to let the South leave without a fight, but Lincoln, Morton, and many others wouldn't let that happen. Morton's speeches show his support of the Union above everything and against all enemies. He said it was the federal government's right and duty to make laws for the whole country and the new states. He said, "It [the Union] must and shall be preserved . . . the Union first, last and all the time, and we will wage uncompromising warfare upon all parties that contemplate its destruction."

The War Governor and Soldiers' Friend 1861-1865

The winter and spring of 1860-61 were filled with uncertainty and fear. No one knew what would the new president or the Southern states would do about each other. People were afraid and worried about the future of the United States and the possibility of war. During this time Governor Morton continued to work to encourage Hoosiers to support the Union in the war he felt was

surely coming. In a speech in Indianapolis in late November, he said the President had no choice but to preserve order, with military force if necessary. He predicted that if one state was allowed to seceed, then others would and soon there would be thirty-three small "countries", instead of the United States of America. That was especially dangerous to states like Indiana because we would be cut off from world ocean transportation routes. Indiana's economic future depended on the United States staying one big country.

Morton was ready to support armed conflict in order to preserve the Union. "If South Carolina gets out of the Union, I trust it will be at the point of the bayonet, after our best efforts have failed to compel her submission to the laws. Better concede her independence to force, to revolution, than to right and principle." The American Revolution had set the pattern for armed conflict over secession.

On January 14, Lane and Morton were sworn into office. On January 15, the General Assembly selected Lane as Indiana's senator. Lane resigned and Morton was sworn in as governor. Morton was the first governor to be a native Hoosier.

In February, as Lincoln traveled through Indianapolis towards Washington and his first term of office, Morton welcomed him and promised to support him in every way necessary to keep the South from leaving the country. He visited Lincoln in Washington in March and promised 6000 Indiana soldiers for the defense of the Union, a loyal Indiana and wholehearted support of Lincoln's administration.

The Southern bombing of Fort Sumter in the harbor in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 12 officially started the Civil War. When President

Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteer troops to defend the Union, Gov. Morton telegraphed the following reply:

"Indianapolis, April 15, 1861.

"To Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States:

"On behalf of the State of Indiana, I tender to you for the defense of the nation, and to uphold the authority of the government, ten thousand men.
Oliver P. Morton,

"Governor of Indiana."

The state of Indiana was not prepared to supply nearly that many soldiers. The state militia had less than 500 men in it. No one knew where the state's weapons, uniforms, or military equipment were kept and in what quantities or condition they were in. A count of arms in January of 1861 found only 500 workable small guns and eight cannons in the state. There was only $10,000 in the state treasury and it could not be used to get more soldiers or guns.

Morton called the legislators into special session and requested one million dollars to supply Indiana's troops, they voted $2,000,000! Throughout the war, Governor Morton always took care of Indiana's soldiers and made sure that Hoosier boys had the best Indiana could give. They called him "the soldiers' friend".

Within a week of Lincoln's call and Morton's promise of troops, nearly 12,000 men organized into local units and went to Indianapolis from all parts of the state. Training, equipping and feeding all those eager volunteers was

an enormous task. Within two days the state fairgrounds were converted into Camp Morton. Display halls and farm animal stalls were closed in and bunks built. Horse and cattle stables became living quarters, and the dining hall became the cafeteria.

By early 1862, over 53,000 men were in uniform and all had come through Camp Morton in Indianapolis. Arrival in Indianapolis was a thrilling adventure planned to excite patriotism and military enthusiasm. New soldiers were met at the train station by an honor guard and drum and bugle band. Each company was escorted through the packed and cheering crowds to the southeast corner of the State House. There Governor Morton made a speech and the soldiers were sworn in. They were then marched to Camp Morton, fed, and assigned to their tents or cattle stalls.

Governor Morton continued to be interested in Indiana's soldiers even after they had joined the federal troops. In February 1862, he established the Indiana Sanitary Commission, which acted like the Red Cross today. It took care of the health need of our soldiers. Nearly every town in Indiana had a committee to gather supplies to help their fighting men. The Sanitary Commission provided many various goods, services, and supplies on the battlefield, on marches, and in hospitals. It distributed clothing, bandages, towels, and blankets, wrote letters and did other favors for the men, saw to the burial of the dead, kept records of the general health and comfort, talked with the officers and privates, and checked on all complaints. It got leaves to come home for the sick and wounded, visited hospitals, provided reading matter and other things to help soldiers feel comfortable and happy.

While Morton worked to provide Hoosier soldiers with the best equipment, provisions, care, and honor, he also concerned himself that proper care was

given to several thousand Confederate prisoners at Camp Morton in 1862. He appointed Richard Owen as commander of the camp and together they provided needed clothing, blankets, medical care, and food for the Confederates.

The war was not going well for the north during the latter half of 1862. After major victories at Shiloh and New Orleans in April, Union troops had not been able to continue their success. Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredricksburg had heavy northern casualties. In Indiana, the threat of the invasion of Kentucky by Confederate troops caused a great fear in southern Indiana. Morton raised 20,000 soldiers and sent them to help defend Kentucky. When Morton needed money to equip them, he left his office in the Statehouse and walked down the street to a bank to borrow $30,000. The president of the bank asked him how he was going to carry that much money if he gave it to him in cash. Gov. Morton replied that he'd find a way, went to a neighboring store for a basket and filled it up with the money. He walked back to his office, carrying $30,000 in a market basket!

Eighteen sixty-two was an election year and a new General Assembly was to be chosen. Unhappy with the Republican conduct of the war, the increasing taxes, the national government's halting of some of American's basic rights, and finally, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Indiana voters elected many Democrat candidates. The Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln's document that freed the black slaves, angered many Hoosiers. They felt Lincoln and the Republican party had changed the reason for the war from saving the Union to outlawing slavery and most Hoosiers did not want to die to free the slaves.

When the General Assembly met in Indianapolis in 1863, the Democrats threatened to make the governor resign and the governor called them supporters of the South and traitors. They argued with each other endlessly. To make

sure the Democrats couldn't do anything, the Republicans ran away from the statehouse, all the way to Madison, so they could cross the Ohio River if the Democrats tried to force them to return to the capital city. The Democrats were sure Gov. Morton would make the Republicans come back, because no one had voted to pay any of the state's bills yet and unless the money was voted on, the state would be penniless.

Governor Morton refused to be blackmailed. He had a plan. He was going to run the state by himself, without the legislature. He would make taxes and borrow money in his own name to pay the state's bills for two years until the next election. He did just that! He got money from Indiana counties, businesses, the federal government, and many ordinary citizens.

None of this money could be put into the state treasury, which was controlled by Democrats, so Morton put the money in his office safe. He also wrote to a New York banking business owned by James F. D. Lanier, a former Indiana resident. Lanier agreed to lend the state nearly $640,000.

During this same summer, the war came to Indiana. In July, General John Hunt Morgan and 2000 Confederate soldiers invaded southern Indiana. Morgan and his raiders swept through Indiana, from Corydon to the Ohio border, burning bridges, tearing up railroad lines, and stealing horses, food, and anything else they wanted. Indianapolis and southern Indiana were in a panic. Many thought Morgan was heading toward Indianapolis to free prisoners in the Confederate prison camp and capture the state ammunition factory there. Governor Morton called for volunteers to protect the capital and southern Indiana. Within two days 20,000 men were in Indianapolis and 45,000 were ready to be called to the capital. Morgan never did go into central Indiana.

He went on into Ohio, where he was later captured and imprisoned. Governor Morton was credited with saving Indiana from the horrors of war.

The war came to an end with Lee's surrender on April 9, and President Lincoln was assassinated on the fourteenth. Morton was deeply saddened by Lincoln's death. He had worked with him and supported him for five years. When Lincoln's funeral train passed through Indianapolis, Morton arranged for the body to lie in state in the capitol rotunda. He, and other state leaders, met the funeral train in Richmond, and accompanied it to Indianapolis.

During the summer of 1865, Governor Morton was not well. He felt increasingly tired, somewhat confused, and worried. One morning, he was unable to get out of bed, and from that day on was paralyzed from his hips down. Several days later, on the advice of his doctors, Morton left to visit specialists in Europe. On his way, he stopped for a week in Washington and visited the new president. He and Mrs. Morton arrived in Paris, France in February, 1866, and he began the very painful treatments, which didn't help him.

Later Life 1865-1877

He returned to Indianapolis and continued to govern the state until January of 1866, when the General Assembly chose him to be Indiana's United States Senator in Washington D. C. Although unable to walk or even stand for any length of time, Oliver Morton was an active member of the Senate for ten years. He helped make laws for the country in the years after the Civil War, and continued to strongly support the Union and oppose the South's actions.

In June of 1877, he went to the Pacific coast on Senate business. While there, his paralysis spread to other parts of his body. He insisted on traveling back to Indiana. During his illness, the President of the United States came to visit him, as did many other friends and former soldiers. On November 1, he died. On his deathbed, he said, "I am dying. I am worn out." His funeral was a huge affair, and he is buried in Indianapolis.

Epilogue

In 1905, the Union veterans of Indiana wanted to honor "the soldier's friend." They requested that the state put up a statue to honor Oliver Morton. In July, 1907 a twelve foot statue of Morton and two Hoosier soldiers was unveiled in front of the Statehouse in Indianapolis. Present at the ceremony were Mrs. Morton, eight year old Oliver Perry Throck Morton, the governor's grandson, many family members and other government leaders. The statue is still there, watching over Market Street and busy Indianapolis.

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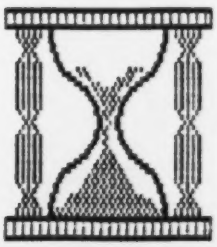
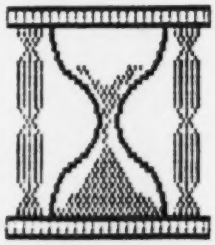
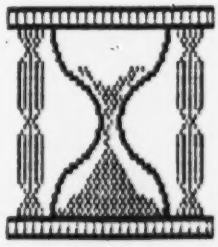
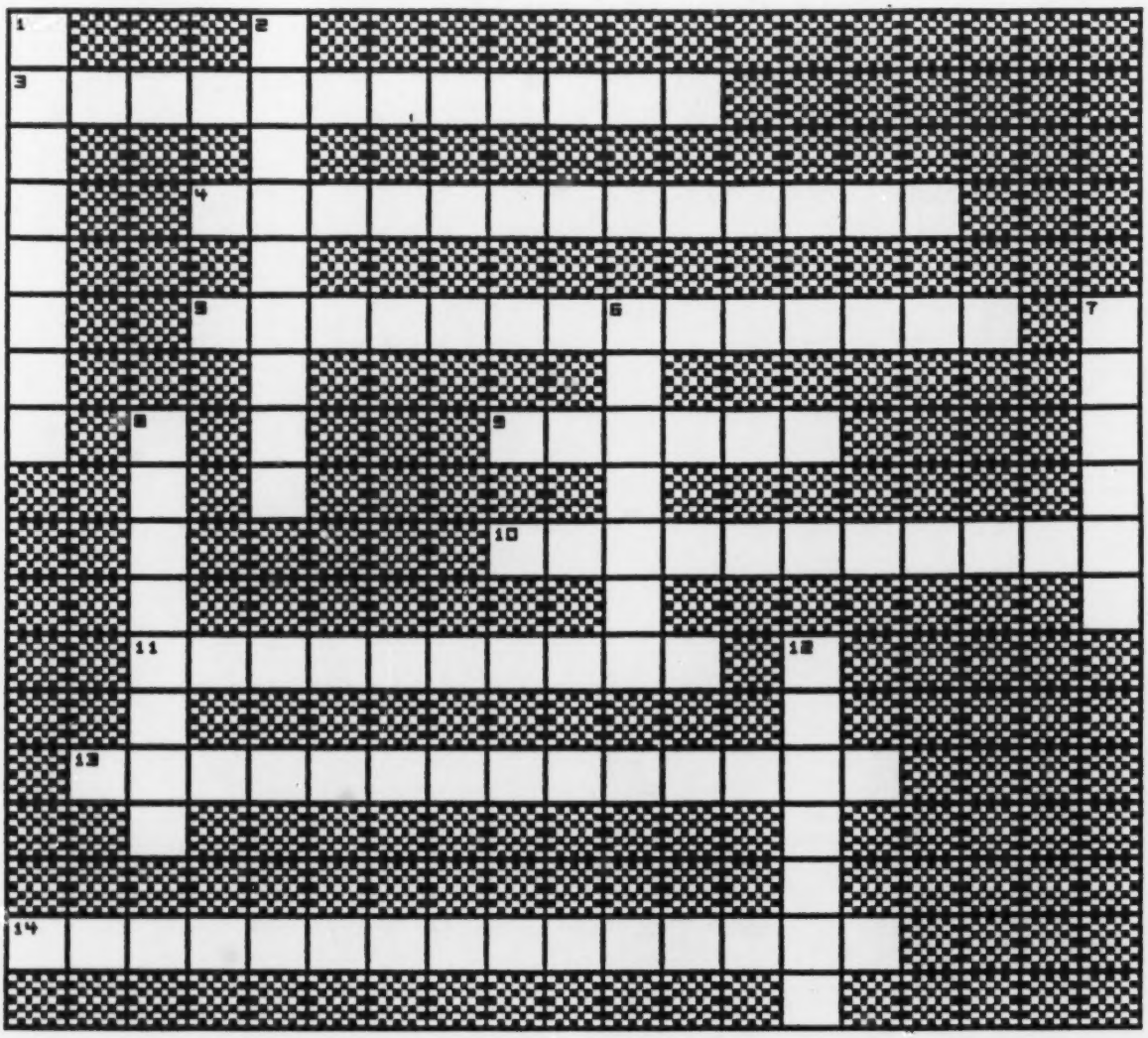
Oliver P. Morton
Indiana's Civil War Governor

Timeline

1823	Oliver Morton was born in Saulsbury, Indiana
1826	Mother died-Went to live with his grandparents
1838	Returned to Centerville and worked as a medical clerk
1839	Began apprenticeship as a hat maker
1843	Attended Miami University in Ohio
1845	Married Lucinda Burbank
1846	Practiced law in Centerville
1856	Defeated in his campaign to be governor of Indiana
1860	Elected as Lt. Governor with Henry S. Lane
1861	January-becomes Governor when Lane resigns
1861	April-Civil War began and Gov. Morton promised Pres. Lincoln 10,000 Hoosier soldiers
1862	Gov. Morton created Indiana Sanitary Commission to care for Indiana's fighting men
1863	Gov. Morton borrowed money to run the state Indiana invaded by Confederate troops
1865	Civil War ended, Pres. Lincoln assassinated, and Morton paralyzed
1866	Went to Washington D.C. as Indiana's Senator
1877	Died in Indianapolis
1907	Statue erected in front of statehouse in Indianapolis

OLIVER P. MORTON



ACROSS CLUES

3. City where O.P. Morton is buried
4. Indiana's governor during the Civil War (3 words)
5. President of the United States during the Civil War (2 words)
9. O.P. Morton was supposed to become a _____.
10. O.P. Morton's hometown
11. Political party of both Morton and Lincoln
13. What Hoosier soldiers called O.P. Morton (2 words)
14. Two reasons the Civil War was fought (3 words)

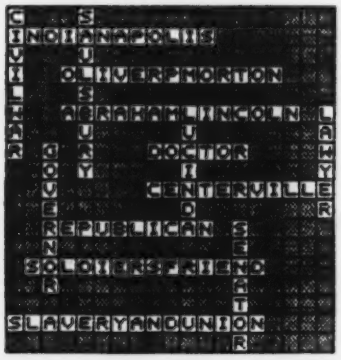
DOWN CLUES

1. The war fought in the United States between 1861-1865(2 words
2. Town where O.P. Morton was born
6. O.P. Morton's wife's first name
7. O.P.Morton's career was as a _____.
8. In 1861 O.P. Morton was elected to be the _____.
12. In 1866, O.P. Morton became a United States _____.

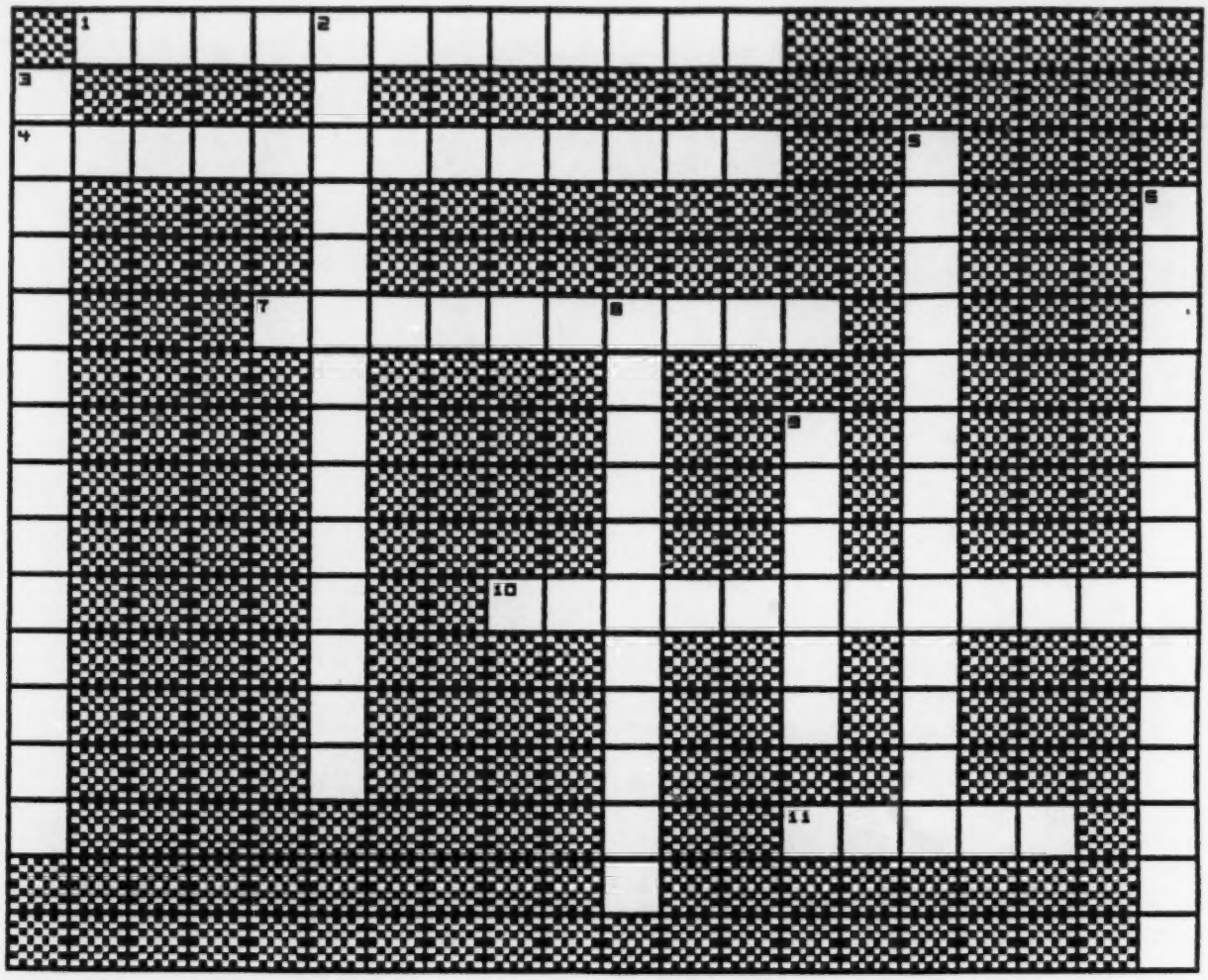
WORD LIST: OLIVER P. MORTON

ABRAHAMLINCOLN
CENTERVILLE
CIVILWAR
DOCTOR
GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS
LAWYER
LUCINDA
OLIVERPMORTON
REPUBLICAN
SAULSBURY
SENATOR
SLAVERYANDUNION
SOLDIERSFRIEND

ANSWERS: OLIVER P. MORTON



INDIANA/CIVIL WAR



ACROSS CLUES

1. City where O.P. Morton's statue is
4. Indiana's Civil War governor (3 words)
7. Place where Indiana soldiers were trained (2 words)
10. What O.P. Morton used to carry money to his office in (2 words)
11. The side that won the Civil War

DOWN CLUES

2. 16th President of the United States who grew up in Indiana
3. Gov. Morton's nickname (2 words)
5. A Hoosier banker who loaned money to O.P. Morton for the state (4 words)
6. Confederate general who invaded southern Indiana (3 words)
8. Man in charge of a Confederate prison camp in Indianapolis (2 words)
9. In front of the statehouse in Indianapolis, so we will remember O.P. Morton.

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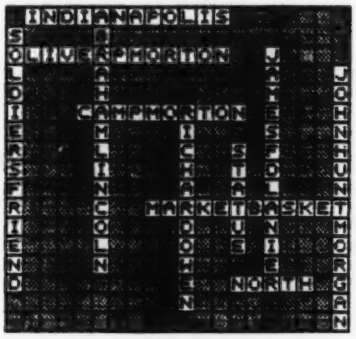
WORD LIST: INDIANA/CIVIL WAR

ABRAHAMLINCOLN
CAMPMORTON
INDIANAPOLIS
JAMESFDLANIER
JOHNHUNTMORGAN
MARKETBASKET
NORTH
OLIVERPMORTON
RICHARDOWEN
SOLDIERSFRIEND
STATUE

ANSWERS: INDIANA/CIVIL WAR



Use these events to fill in the timeline for Governor Morton's life.

****

Began law practice in Centerville, Indiana

Died in Indianapolis

Defeated in campaign to become governor of Indiana

Born in Saulsbury, Indiana

Became first Hoosier born governor

Elected as the Lt. Governor with Henry Lane

Borrowed money to run the state

Went to Washington D. C. as United States Senator

Statue erected in front of the statehouse in Indianapolis

Civil War ended, Lincoln assassinated, Morton paralyzed

Went to live with his grandparents

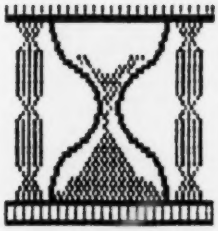
Worked as a medical clerk

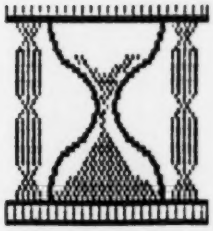
Created the Indiana Sanitary Commission to care for Hoosier soldiers

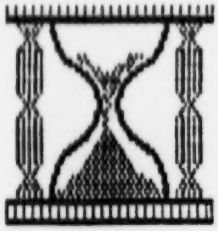
Civil War began and Gov. Morton promised Pres. Lincoln 10,000 soldiers

Married Lucinda Burbank

Attneded Miami University







Name _____

Directions: Beside each date, fill in the correct event from Oliver P. Morton's life.

Oliver P. Morton
Indiana's Civil War Governor

Timeline

1823_____

1826_____

1838_____

1839_____

1843_____

1845_____

1846_____

1856_____

1860_____

1861 January_____

1861 April_____

1862_____

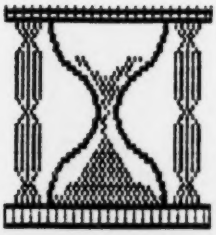
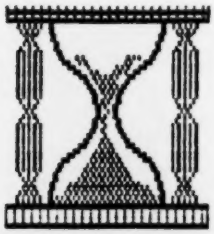
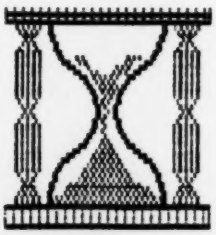
1863_____

1865_____

1866_____

1877_____

1907_____

Name_____

Answer the following questions using your knowledge of the life of Oliver P. Morton and the Civil War. Use the biography packet to find the correct answers. Spell them correctly, please.

****

Oliver P. Morton
Indiana's Civil War Governor

1. Who was the governor of Indiana during the Civil War?

_____

2. When was Oliver P. Morton born and in what town?

_____

3. In 1852, Morton served as a _____ for eight months.

4. What political party did Oliver Morton belong to during Civil War?_____

5. What was Gov. Morton's nickname?_____

6. What was one of the most discussed questions in the United States during the 1850's?_____

7. What year did Morton become the goveror of Indiana?_____

8. The Civil War began with the Southern bombing of what place?_____

9. What was the name of the place in Indianapolis where Indiana men were trained to become soldiers?_____

_____

10. What group of people took care of Indiana soldiers during the Civil War?_____

11. When Gov. Morton borrowed money from Indianapolis banks, what did he carry it to his office in?_____

_____

12. What document, that Pres. Lincoln wrote, gave slaves their freedom? _____

13. Who was the Indiana banker in New York City that loaned the state of Indiana over a half million dollars?

_____

14. Who was a Confederate general who invaded southern Indiana in 1863?_____

15. Where is there a statue of Oliver P. Morton?_____

_____

16. Gov. Morton had serious health problems while he was governor. What happened to him in 1865?_____

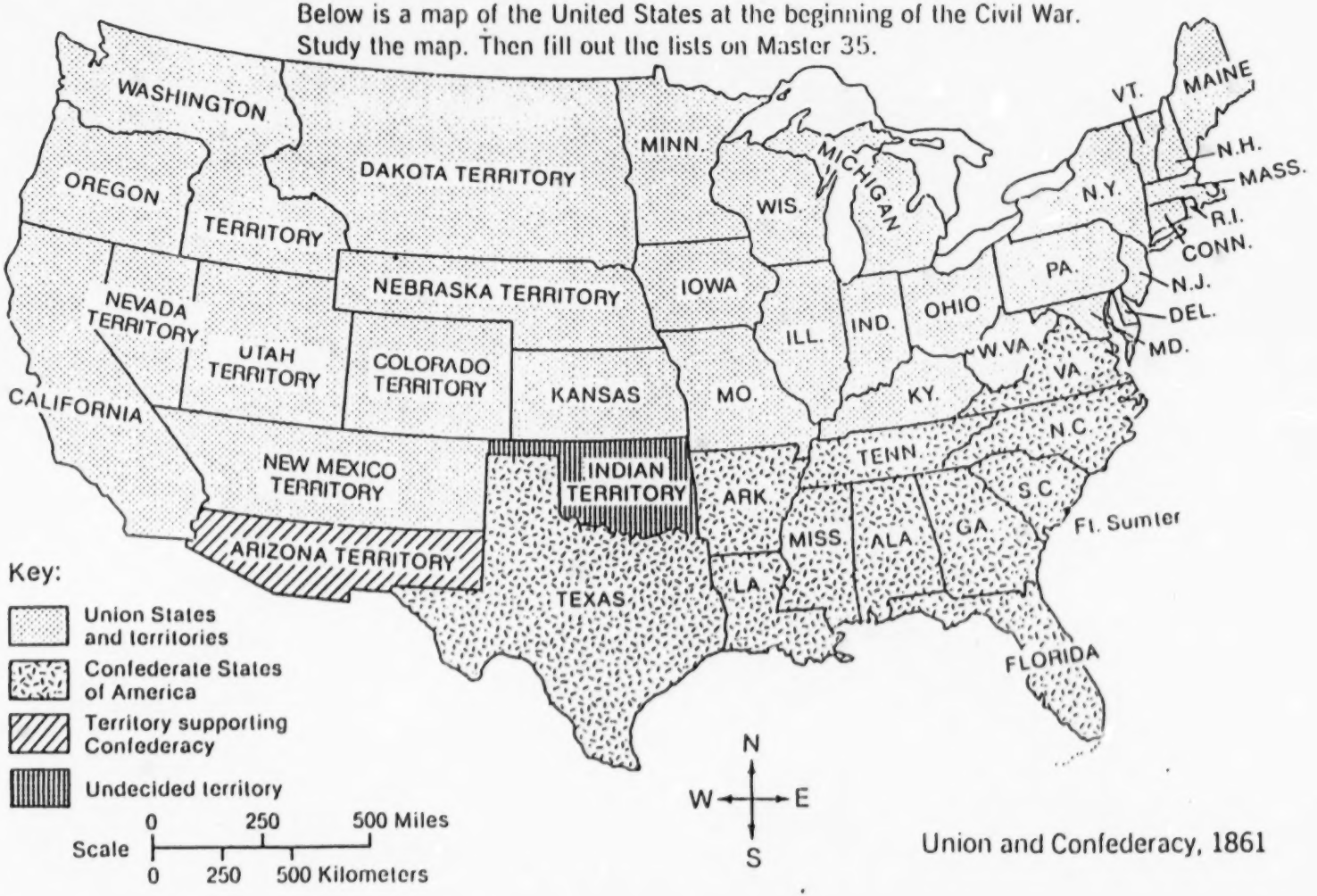
_____

MASTER

34 The Civil War (part 1)

Name _____

Below is a map of the United States at the beginning of the Civil War. Study the map. Then fill out the lists on Master 35.



Union and Confederacy, 1861

MASTER

35 The Civil War (part 2)

Name _____

On Master 34 you saw a map of the United States in 1861. The map shows how the states and territories divided against each other during the Civil War. After studying the map, make the following lists:

1. States of the Confederacy

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____

2. Territory supporting Confederacy

_____

3. States of the Union

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____

4. Territories supporting the Union

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____

5. Undecided territory _____

_____

Name_____ Oliver P. Morton Test

Write one sentence about each of the following people, places, or thing. Be sure you tell who or what it is and how it is connected to our study of Indiana history.
****

1. Oliver P. Morton _____

_____

2. Abraham Lincoln _____

_____

3. Civil War _____

_____

Choose on of the following statements and write a paragraph about it. Remember to indent your paragraph, use complete sentences, capital letters, and periods. Begin with a topic sentence. Write at least FIVE good sentences. Write your paragraph on the back of this paper.

1. You are Oliver P. Morton. It is 1860 and you have been elected as the Lt. Governor of Indiana. You know you will become the governor in January. Write a speech telling the people of Indiana why the southern states should NOT be allowed to leave the Union.

2. You are Gov. Morton and it is 1863. The General Assembly refuses to give you money to run the state for the next two years. Write to the Indianapolis newspapers telling how you are going to handle the problem.

3. You are Gov. Morton's grandson and it is 1907. You have uncovered your famous grandfather's statue in front of the statehouse in Indianapolis. Write a journal entry describing the ceremony and your grandfather's place in Indiana history.